

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /105 W

----- 038812

R 281558Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1174

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06493

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, QA, BA, PBOR

SUBJ: QATAR-BAHRAIN MEDIAN LINE

REF: DOHA 434

1. EMBOFF SAW BANNERMAN, HEAD OF MIDDLE EAST SECTION OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENT AT FCO, ON PROBLEM OF MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN BAHRAIN AND QATAR. BANNERMAN STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO BOUNDARY "AWARDS" BY HMG, ONE IN 1939 AND ONE IN 1947. THE TEXT OF THE 1939 AWARD AS GIVEN TO US STATES SIMPLY THAT HMG HAS "DECIDED" THAT THE HAWAR ISLANDS "BELONG TO BAHRAIN". WE ARE POUCHING ZEROXED COPY TO EMBASSY DOHA.

2. BANNERMAN STATED THAT THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE 1947 AWARD, WHICH INTER ALIA CONFIRMED THE AWARD ON HAWAR, IS CLASSIFIED AND STILL SUBJECT TO THE FCO THIRTY-YEAR RULE AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT BE RELEASED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH BAHRAIN AND QATAR. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE THIRTY YEARS ON THIS DOCUMENT WOULD RUN OUT NEXT YEAR, BANNERMAN REPLIED THAT THE AWARD HAD EVOKED SO MUCH CONTROVERSY THAT
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HE, PERSONALLY, WOULD OPPOSE ITS DECLASSIFICATION NEXT

YEAR.

3. BANNERMAN WAS THE LOGICAL FIRST MAN FOR US TO APPROACH SINCE HE IS THE FCO "MEMORY" ON SUCH MATTERS. IF USG ACCESS TO THE 1947 HMG AWARD IS A SUFFICIENTLY URGENT MATTER, WE COULD TAKE THE STEP OF APPEALING OVER HIS HEAD TO THE POLICY LEVEL IN THE FCO. HOWEVER, WE ANTICIPATE THAT HMG MIGHT NOT BE HAPPY ABOUT DISCLOSING INFORMATION ON THE CONTROVERSIAL AWARD TO AN AMERICAN OIL FIRM IN VIEW OF THE LOCAL SENSITIVITIES. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SUGGEST THAT AS A NEXT INTERIM MOVE, EMBASSY DOHA MAY WISH TO TAKE UP THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE GOQ. ARMSTRONG

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